

## **CRANE WINS WHITE HOUSE CLOSING THE CIRCLE AWARD**

On 22 April 2003, Federal Environmental Executive John Howard announced the winners of the prestigious White House Closing the Circle Awards. Federal employees representing eleven Departments and Agencies from across the Country gathered on June 10, 2003 at the Presidential Hall of the Eisenhower Executive Office building, in Washington, DC to accept White House awards for their commitment to environmental stewardship. Among the attendees were representatives from Crane Army Ammunition Activity.

Crane Army Ammunition Activity received an award in the Waste/Pollution Prevention category for the Marine Location Marker (MLM) Team. From 2000 – 2002, the MLM Team was responsible for the reuse of 52,059 pounds of material with an associated cost savings of a little over \$2.25M. The team, comprised of Larry Phelps, Richard Inman, Carey Carlisle, and Charles Luther, examined the MLM process, overcame design obstacles, and implemented an innovative demilitarization method that found a new use for rejected red phosphorus candles.

From FY01 through FY02, 52,059 MLMs were subjected to the new MLM demilitarization process. A total of 27,654 rejected MLMs had been destined for incineration, until the MLM Team successfully diverted them to a new demilitarization process involving recycling several of the marker components. Also diverted from possible incineration were MK 58 candles that were cut to manufacture 24,225 MK 25 markers. The MLM Team's efforts in developing a new demilitarization method for the MLMs has resulted in reduced hazardous materials usage and procurement cost, reduced production costs, disposal cost savings, and an improved waste diversion rate.

"This year's honorees have heeded President Bush's call for the Federal government to lead by example, be a good neighbor, and be a good steward of our resources," said Mr. Howard. "These outstanding programs demonstrate our federal workforce is committed to improving its environmental performance and protecting our resources through such Actions as establishing environmental management systems; increasing the Purchase of green products and services; designing, constructing, and operating buildings using sustainable principles; and reducing the generation of wastes."

Twenty-six Award Winners were selected from over 200 nominations received this year. Awards were granted in the categories of Education and Outreach, Affirmative Procurement, Waste/Pollution Prevention, Environmental Preferability, Sustainable Design/Green Buildings, Environmental Management Systems, Recycling and Biobased Products.

The results of the CAAA's demilitarization efforts have been substantial. This award marks the second time this past year that Crane has been recognized for environmental accomplishments. Last September, the State of Indiana awarded CAAA with a 2002 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence in the Recycling category. The Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management stated that, "CAAA is noted for its ongoing recycling efforts to reduce pollution from demilitarization activities". This project is a great example of how Crane can meet its mission requirements while proving a strong commitment to the environment. In addition, it exemplifies that recycling and pollution prevention can generate significant economic benefits.